

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4-7 and 10-12 have been rejected for the reasons indicated in the Office Action. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 are indicated as being objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 have been amended and claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 10-12 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by this amendment entrance of this amendment is hereby requested.

With Respect to the Drawing Objection, Paragraph 1 of the Office Action

Figure 2 has been objected to for the reason indicated in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Transmitted with this response and amendment is a replacement of formal figure 2. Withdrawal of this objection is hereby requested.

With Respect to the Substitute Specification, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action

A substitute specification is requested to overcome the lack of antecedent basis indicated in claims 3 and 9 and paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action. During a telephone conversation with Examiner Felix Suarez on October 21, 2003 the applicant's representative determined that the Examiner has requesting a claim set containing amendments to claims 3 and 9 to overcome the basis for these objections, rather than a substitute specification containing a new description section in the application.

In view of the amendments to claims 3 and 9, withdrawal of these objections is hereby requested.

With Respect to the Rejections of Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Paragraph 4 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 are indicated as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,490,506 to March for the reasons indicated in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Claims 2 and 8 have been indicated as being objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but as being otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations in claims 2, 4 and 6 have been added into claims 1, and the limitations of claims 8, 10 and 12 have been added into claim 7 respectively, and claims 2, 4-

6, 8 and 10-12 have been cancelled by this amendment. Withdrawal of these rejections is hereby requested.

With Respect to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103, Paragraph 5 of the Office Action

Claims 6 and 12 are indicated as being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the '506 patent further in view of United States Patent No. 6,546,785 to Discenzo for the reasons indicated in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. For the reasons indicated above, claims 6 and 12 have been canceled. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is hereby requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons indicated above and an indication of such is earnestly solicited.

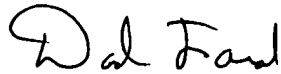
This is a request under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a response to the Office Action of August 29, 2003 in the above-identified application. The requested extension is for the period of one month, from November 29, 2003 to March 1, 2004.

The fee for a three month extension of time is \$950.00. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this fee and any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account Number 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON & MAK PC

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By: 
David A. Farah, M.D.
Reg. No. 38,134

SHELDON & MAK PC
A Professional Corporation
225 South Lake Avenue, 9th Floor
Pasadena, California 91101
Tel.: (626) 796-4000
Fax: (626) 795-6321